

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
9 May 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Extent of Soviet Presence in Cuba

1. In addition to the Soviet military personnel in Cuba, there are about 1,700 Soviets engaged in various economic activities and a few hundred in the official Soviet community. The military personnel serve to supplement the Cuban Revolutionary Forces, particularly in highly technical areas of SAM and jet fighter operations, while the economic specialists provide one of the most important aspects of Soviet economic aid to Cuba. In addition to Soviet personnel stationed in Cuba for extended periods, there are usually several hundred Soviet citizens temporarily in Cuba at any given time.

Military Personnel and Equipment

2. About 17,500 Soviet military personnel were estimated to be in Cuba prior to February 1963.

25X1

[REDACTED] the total Soviet military personnel strength in Cuba has probably been reduced by about 20 to 30 percent since mid-February.

3. The principal items of equipment held by the Soviet troops in Cuba include about 140 T-54 medium tanks, 24-32 FROG rocket launchers, 24 SAM sites (about 500 SA-2 Guideline missiles), four cruise-missile sites (about 150 cruise missiles), 12 Komar boats, and 42 MIG-21 jet fighters.

4. The major items of Soviet equipment in Cuban hands are as follows: 50-55 MIG-15/17 jet fighters, 11 MIG-19 jet fighters, at least 350 tanks and self-propelled guns, about 100 helicopters, 6 Kronstadt subchasers, and 16 motor torpedo boats (P-6). In addition to these major items of equipment Cuban military forces have received a large number of artillery pieces, over 20,000 military vehicles, and large quantities of small arms.

Economic Personnel and Equipment

5. We estimate that there are about 1,700 Soviets in Cuba engaged in various forms of economic activity, ranging from teaching theoretical economics to agricultural work. Technicians and workers of all sorts supplement Cuba's meager supply of managers and technically qualified workers and provide one of the most important features of Bloc economic aid to Cuba. Several hundred Soviet agricultural workers and technicians were sent to Cuba last year to assist during the 1962/63 growing season.

25X1

6. Soviet advisors are employed in many positions throughout the Cuban economic hierarchy in planning, administrative, and supervisory capacities.

25X1

Other Soviet economic specialists are engaged in some of the embryonic economic aid projects being undertaken in Cuba with Soviet assistance. These include two major thermal power stations, the expansion of three steel plants, and surveys for a petroleum refinery.

7. The Soviet economic presence in Cuba is enhanced by continuing large-scale shipments of machinery and equipment, raw materials, foodstuffs, and consumer goods from the USSR. The Soviets supply all of the more than 4 million tons of oil imported annually by Cuba. Thousands of Soviet trucks, jeeps, tractors, combines, and items of construction equipment have been delivered as part of the process of re-equipping the island with Bloc products.

Diplomatic and Transient Soviet Personnel

8. There are about eighty Soviet diplomatic and trade officials attached to the Soviet Embassy in Havana. They have some 150 dependents, many of whom work in the embassy or commercial offices.

9. In addition to the individuals stationed in Cuba for extended periods, several hundred Soviet citizens may be temporarily in Cuba at any one time. These include delegations to particular events in Cuba; for example, the Soviet May Day delegation is probably still there.

25X1

25X1

Also, various cultural groups such as orchestras and choruses periodically visit Cuba from the USSR.

Approved For Release 2006/05/24 : CIA-RDP79T00429A001100040009-2

25X1

Approved For Release 2006/05/24 : CIA-RDP79T00429A001100040009-2